

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 16, 2009. Claims 16, 17, 19, 31 and 33 are pending in the application, of which claims 16, 31 and 33 are in independent form. Claims 1-15, 18, 20-30 and 32 have been canceled in this case. Claims 16, 19 and 31 have been amended. Claim 33 has been added to provide Applicants with a broader scope of protection (Applicants note at the outset that the subject matter of Claim 33 is directed to Group I, drawn to a razor with a locking means, as previously elected by Applicants). Favorable consideration is hereby requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 16-20 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 8-323067. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 16 has been amended by introducing the features relating to the razor being provided with locking means as recited in canceled claims 18 and 20 and that the manually operable actuator comprises a pusher movable between a locking position in which the manually operable actuator cannot be moved and an unlocking position in which the manually operable actuator can be moved. (Support in the specification for the “pusher” feature may be found at least in paragraph [0016], at page 2 of the clean version of the specification.) The same amendments have been made to independent claim 31.

With respect to new claim 33, this claim further defines that the manually operable actuator comprises a hollow body and a pusher slideable with respect to the hollow body between a locking position in which the manually operable actuator cannot be moved and an unlocking position in which the manually operable actuator can be moved.

Japanese Publication 8-323067 discloses a razor provided with right and left heads 5, 6 and an actuator (knob 11) to allow the projection of one head out of the razor body. The knob 11 is pushed in against the energizing force of a spring. Applicants submit however that Japanese Publication 8-323067 does not disclose a pusher movable between a locking position in which the manually operable actuator cannot be moved and an unlocking position in which the manually operable actuator can be moved, as recited in independent claims 16 and 31. At least for these reasons, Applicants consider the subject matter of independent claims 16 and 31 as patentable over Japanese Publication 8-323067. Dependent claims 17 and 19 depend from independent claim 16 and are patentable at least for the reasons provided above in relation to claim 16.

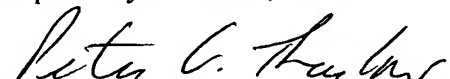
New independent claim 33 is more precise than claim 16 in that it further defines that the manually operable actuator comprises a hollow body and a pusher slideable with respect

to the hollow body. At least for this reason, Applicants submit that claim 33 is patentable over Japanese Publication 8-323067 and the prior art of record in this case.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,


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